

MEDIA RELEASE



**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
September 7, 2006**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
Western District of Kentucky**

**Contact: Sandy Focken
United States Attorney's Office
(502) 582-5911**

ILLEGAL ALIEN PLEADS GUILTY IN LOUISVILLE

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **JESUS MEZA-GARCIA**, age 38, a native and citizen of Mexico, **pled guilty** to illegally re-entering the United States after having previously been deported. The maximum potential penalties are 20 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of three years following incarceration.

Meza-Garcia pled guilty and admitted that on or about May 3, 2006, in Jefferson County, Kentucky, he was arrested by the Kentucky State Police for his alleged participation in a marijuana drug deal. Upon his arrest, **Meza-Garcia** was charged in state court with conspiracy to traffic in marijuana involving more than five pounds (these charges were later dismissed). At the time of his arrest, **Meza-Garcia** admitted to being a Mexican national who had entered the United States illegally. **Meza-Garcia** was then turned over to the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, for further investigation.

A records check was performed by Special Agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, whereupon it was found that **Meza-Garcia** was citizen of Mexico who had

- MORE -

previously been deported from the United States on March 3, 2006, through the Hidalgo, Texas Port of Entry. Further records checks revealed that **Meza-Garcia** had previously been convicted of this same offense, Illegal re-entry after deportation, and conspiracy to distribute cocaine in federal court on December 20, 1999, and September 26, 1991, respectively.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel P. Kinnicutt, and it was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Kentucky State Police.

Meza-Garcia is scheduled to be sentenced before United States District Judge Jennifer B. Coffman on December 7, 2006, at 11:30 a.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

- END -

DLH:DPK:sch:060606